

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



09-10

PLAN FOR 2009-10

MINISTRY OF
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2009-10

Statement from the Minister



On November 7, 2007, the people of Saskatchewan voted for change and entrusted a new government with responsibility for delivering on the promise of Saskatchewan and serving the people of our great province.

I accepted the responsibility for helping to deliver on our Government's plan for Securing the Future. I present to you, within these pages, my Ministry's Plan for 2009-10. In this Plan we identify how the Ministry of Municipal Affairs aligns with Government's vision for a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all.

The 2009-10 Budget enables a number of important initiatives and delivers on our promises. I will report on this Plan and my Mandate Letter commitments in the Ministry's annual report.

*The Honourable Bill Hutchinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs*

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs facilitates development of vibrant, safe, self-reliant, and accountable municipalities capable of providing leadership and serving the interests of Saskatchewan communities.

Response to Government Direction

Ministry Plans for 2009-10 align with Government's vision and goals and the key priorities for 2009-10, as presented in the Government Direction for 2009-10. The 2009-10 Plan communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's activities over the coming year and reflects the Ministry's primary areas of focus. Together, all ministries support Government's three goals, working towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Strategies and Actions

Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain **Economic Growth** for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Engage municipalities in increasing capacity for economic development	• Implement the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan (MSSP) to set out long-term directions and a joint work plan for the municipal sector and the province. • Implement a new provincial-municipal Saskatchewan infrastructure plan in partnership with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, which is leading the plan's development, to meet Saskatchewan's requirements under the Building Canada Plan. • Lead a partnership between ministries and the municipal sector to identify barriers and options to improve economic outcomes. • Implement the commitment for municipal operating grants to provide municipalities with a sustainable and predictable revenue source that grows with the economy. • Increase municipal capacity through programs and services and joint initiatives with the municipal sector including: ~ Municipal Leadership Development Program; ~ Municipal Awards Program; ~ Municipal Capacity Development Program; and, ~ Municipal Forum and the Northern Municipal Roundtable. • Facilitate or manage the subdivision of land for consistency with municipal and provincial priorities, regulations, and interests for economic development. • Manage the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative which will provide municipalities with interest rate subsidies for five-years on \$300 million of municipal borrowing to support the provincial growth agenda, specifically related to residential, commercial, and industrial lot development.
Support effective community planning	• Work with the municipal sector through the MSSP to identify and address barriers to economic growth and develop solutions. • Encourage regional planning for land use, infrastructure investment, and economic development. • Review planning legislation and regulations to ensure the legal framework best supports the realization of municipal and provincial objectives. • Consult stakeholders on provincial priorities for land use and development.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Assist municipalities in addressing critical infrastructure needs	• Provide capital funding through financial assistance programs to enable effective and efficient investments primarily for water, wastewater, solid waste, and local roads. • Encourage municipalities to use servicing agreements and development levies to fund infrastructure through the review of subdivisions and workshops. • Work with municipal associations and industry to review rates and legislation for road maintenance agreements. Municipalities and haulers enter into these agreements to ensure municipalities are compensated for the incremental maintenance and loss of road life costs due to heavy hauls. • Invest in infrastructure for northern communities through the Northern Municipal Trust Account.

Government Goal – Security

Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Enable municipalities to establish safe, healthy communities	• Work with the municipal sector through the MSSP to identify and address needs for vital services, for example police and emergency services in communities. • Encourage municipalities to adopt policies for achieving safe, healthy communities. • Review the Transit for the Disabled program to maximize benefit for recipients and to ensure highest priority needs are addressed.

Government Goal – Promises

Keep Government's **Promises** and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Improve information on municipal capacity and needs	• Continue to develop a municipal asset information system to support provincial and municipal decisions on asset management and infrastructure investments. • Provide details to the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to inform the development of a new provincial-municipal Saskatchewan infrastructure plan, which is required to meet Saskatchewan's requirements under the Building Canada Plan.
Encourage and facilitate municipal, First Nations and Métis relationships	• Inform municipalities of their duty to consult through municipal bylaw review workshops and informational sessions and meet the Ministry's duty to consult obligation by consulting with First Nations and Métis communities on Ministry decisions that may affect Treaty and Aboriginal Rights such as formulation of legislation and approval of municipal bylaws and subdivisions. • Facilitate discussions among municipalities and First Nations and Métis people to enhance shared services and stimulate economic development.
Increase municipal financial and operational transparency and accountability	• Educate and raise awareness of roles and responsibilities of elected and administrative officials. • Develop, implement, and publish progress measures in collaboration with municipalities on key municipal services, such as public safety and security, effective and safe infrastructure, quality of life, economic vitality and opportunity and capacity, made possible through municipal operating grants. • Develop a municipal information database as a comprehensive source of municipal information from all ministries to support government analysis and decision-making. • Support municipal compliance with Public Sector Accounting Board requirements. • Enhance legislated accountability and transparency for the municipal sector. • Support implementation of the education property tax initiative.

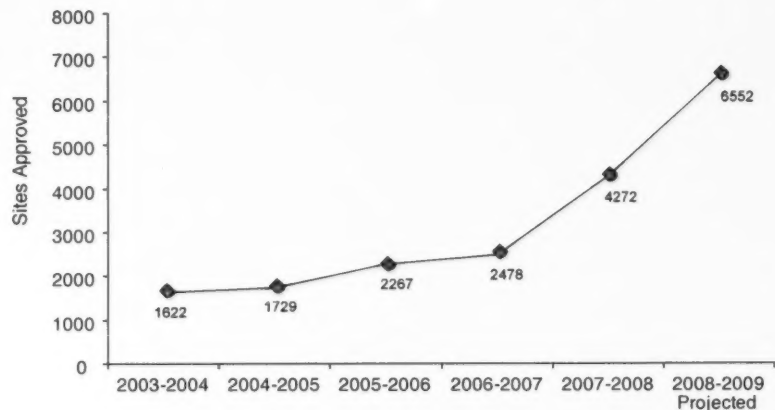
Performance Measures

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information										
Percentage of the population served by Official Community Plans	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Urban with Plans</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban without Plans</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RM with Plans</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RM without Plans</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Urban with Plans	63%	Urban without Plans	12%	RM with Plans	7%	RM without Plans	18%
Category	Percentage										
Urban with Plans	63%										
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Percentage of municipalities with Official Community Plans	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Municipalities with Plans</td> <td>64%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Municipalities without Plans</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Municipalities with Plans	64%	Municipalities without Plans	36%				
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Municipalities with Plans	64%										
Municipalities without Plans	36%										
Significance of the Measure <i>The Planning and Development Act, 2007</i> provides municipalities the authority to adopt Official Community Plans (OCP). The OCP's set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities, and address community interests. Without OCP's municipal councils do not have the policies and supporting legal authority to lead the municipality's development agenda.											

Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

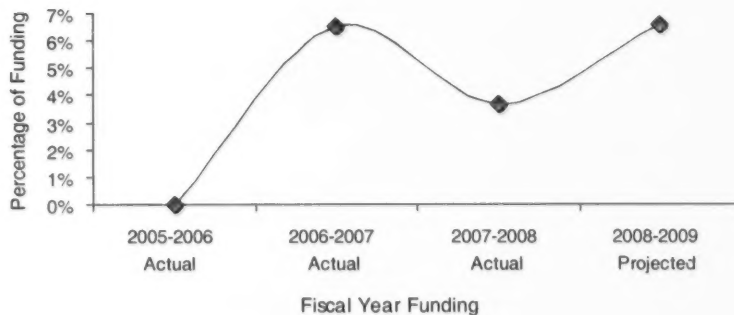
Number of sites created through subdivision approval



Significance of the Measure

This measure is of interest as subdivision activity is directly related to economic growth. Subdivision of land to create sites is the first step in the development process. An increase in the number of sites indicates support for economic growth and demand for new infrastructure to service the new sites created.

Percentage of funding provided for regional infrastructure through major cost-shared federal/provincial infrastructure programs



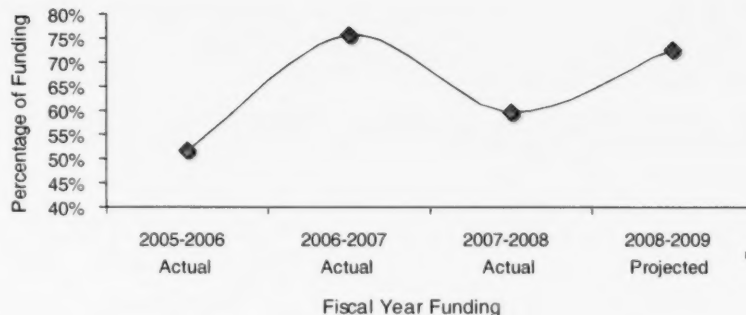
Significance of the Measure

This measure is significant to the ministry and government, as regional solutions often provide a tangible solution for local issues surrounding limited financial resources available, increasing municipal infrastructure deficits and environmental disaster risk. This measure tracks the amount of federal/provincial program funding that is provided for regional water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure.

Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

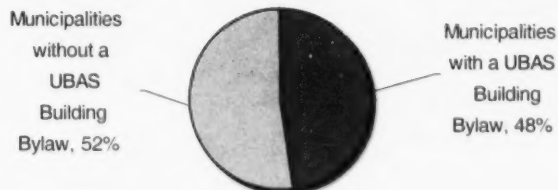
Proportion of infrastructure investment provided for public environmental and safety projects (water, waste water, and landfill projects) through federal-provincial cost-shared programs



Significance of the Measure

Government investments in health and safety related infrastructure projects are essential to promote quality of life for Saskatchewan residents and mitigate risk of environmental disaster. This measure tracks the proportion of federal/provincial cost-shared program funding provided for water, wastewater, and landfill projects.

Percentage of municipalities with a building bylaw Pursuant to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*



Significance of the Measure

Municipal Affairs undertakes significant inter-ministry and agency coordination to facilitate the incorporation of government priorities and interests within local government for making communities safe. This coordination includes safe guarding public health and safety, ensuring the integrity of public infrastructure, preserving the natural, cultural and archaeological resources, protecting the environment including water, and encouraging the sustainable development of communities. This measure demonstrates municipal leadership in providing public safety through the adoption of building bylaws pursuant to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* and enforcement of building standards that promote construction of safe buildings.

Financial Summary

Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2009-10

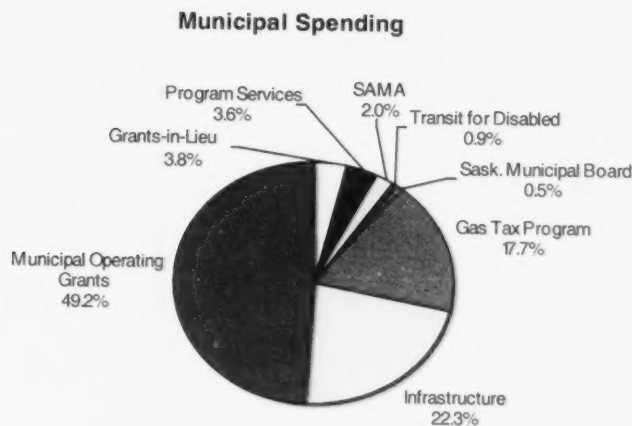
2009-10 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	4,816
Municipal Financial Assistance	265,770
Federal Municipal Assistance	60,187
Municipal Relations	7,397
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	1,527
Total Appropriation	339,697
Capital Asset Acquisitions	---
Capital Asset Amortization	---
Total Expense	339,697
FTE Staff Complement	142.5

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at:
<http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/2009-10>

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The following are key announcements being made in the 2009-10 Budget:

- Municipal Operating Grants – \$167 million to deliver on the mandate commitment to introduce a new Municipal Operating Grants system to replace the former revenue sharing formula.
- Municipal Capital Investment – \$76 million to support municipal governance, infrastructure and services, including; Building Canada Fund – Communities Component, Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative, Urban Development Agreements, Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Municipal Infrastructure Grants, and Provincial Municipal Support.
- Federal Gas Tax – \$59.7 million in federal flow-through funding for municipalities – an 86 per cent increase.
- Transit Assistance for the Disabled – \$2.9 million to address operating pressures related to increased ridership.



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.municipal.gov.sk.ca for more information on the Ministry's programs and services. For additional information about Municipal Affairs, or to provide feedback about our 2009-10 Plan or performance results, please contact us at (306) 787-2635.

